

ART. X.—*Observations on Parmularia obliqua and a Fossil Species.*

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(With Plate X.)

[Read 9th June, 1910.]

Parmularia obliqua, McG. (Pl. X.)

Dr. Verco also sent me some specimens of *Parmularia obliqua*, a species which I had not before seen. This species is described by Dr. MacGillivray under the name of *Eschara obliqua* in Prof. McCoy's *Prodomus of the Zoology of Victoria*, Decade V., page 39, plate 48, fig. 1, from the only specimen he had seen, collected at Schnapper Point, which was imperfect. Kirchenpauer also described the same form under the name of *Eschara reniformis* in the *Catalogue of the Godeffroy Museum*.

The specimens were dredged in Backstairs Passage and Gulf St. Vincent, S.A., at from 14 to 24 fathoms. They include one adult form, which is kidney-shaped, 25 mm. wide and 17 mm. high; it is composed of two layers of zoecia, back to back, and bears numerous ooecia. The other specimens are younger forms, and have not developed the kidney-shape of the adult nor ooecia; they are either fan-shaped, with obtusely crenated edges, or are palmate; in them the zoecia are arranged in regular rows, and in the palmate form illustrated is shown such a symmetrical and beautiful arrangement of the zoecia that I consider it worthy of illustration.

This species is particularly noticeable on account of its growth and habit; it does not, like most other calcareous polyzoa, grow upon the surface of rocks, algae, shells, etc., but is furnished with a long flexible stem or filament some 6 or 7 cm. long and 2 mm. thick, upon the summit of which the zoarium is attached. The point of attachment is at the curved indentation in the centre of the lower margin of the zoarium. The filament is, Dr. Verco informs me, in the living

